

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Early Intervention Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

May 20, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Sarah Souders, Chair
Meghan Johnson
Debbie Kitelinger
Amy Simpson
Maggie Ferry
Eric Gebhart
Margaret Kavanaugh
Linda Borghols
Donna Swihart

Community Members/Guests:

Dorothy Erickson
Melora Gaber
Michelle McCrea
Sheila Sellers

Staff:

Teresa Holt

Prepared by:

Paula DiPaolo, Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 9:00 a.m.
Roll Call

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News

Teresa Holt announced that the Governor has until May 25th to sign and approve the budget and they'll find out how much infant learning money stayed in after that.

Approval of the Past Minutes

Teresa Holt made a correction to the previous meeting minutes by noting that on page three under correspondence the last sentence should read "poor water quality issue".

Amy Simpson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as corrected by Teresa Holt. Meghan Johnson **SECONDED**. The minutes were **APPROVED**.

Correspondence

Teresa Holt stated that there was an issue brought up by Erin Kinavey which deals with stimulus money to provide ILP services for children up to kindergarten age. She also noted that she received an e-mail from Sharon Schumacher who asked that they postpone this discussion until she can attend the meeting.

Amy Simpson added that in Part C, there is a provision that states can provide early intervention services until age 5, but there is a maneuvering issue between the Department of Ed which would provide the services through 619 and DHSS who provides the services through Part C.

Linda Borghols stated that she believes Erin would like the EIC to open up a dialogue about it and do some research into what other states have done, and that she's thinking more long term about how to address this. Linda also stated that Erin would like to coordinate with Sharon Schumacher and make this a collaborative process.

Teresa Holt asked if this is new money or existing money currently used for preschool services. Her other question was could both type of systems be continued. Linda Borghols stated that she has the grant application and that it's a planning grant, not an implementation of services grant and the deadline for that is June, 2009. Linda stated that Erin would like input in terms of whether the EIC would support this. Amy Simpson commented that perhaps this can be the bridge between Part C and Part B gaining parity in eligibility requirements.

Teresa Holt shared some of her concerns about drafting policies and meeting the grant deadlines.

The group discussed the importance of having Erin and Sharon participate in an EIC subcommittee to look into what this means and how it could advance the priorities of the EIC. Besides Erin Kinavey and Sharon Schumacher, the other committee members who volunteered to be on the subcommittee include: Margaret Kavanaugh, Meghan Johnson, and Amy Simpson.

Teresa Holt stated that the other piece of correspondence was from Sheila Sellers requesting a letter of support for the Early Childhood Special Education Personnel Prep Program. They have drafted a letter and it will be signed by Sarah Souders and Stacey Messerschmidt.

Review of the Ketchikan Council Meeting

Sarah Souders stated that she thought the Council meeting went well. She particularly enjoyed the school visit where Taylor Gregg works. Sarah also noted that she liked the charter school built on pilings with a playground built underneath it to protect the children from the rain. Donna Swihart agreed that Taylor really seemed to be in her element.

Teresa Holt explained that the spring Council meeting is the time to set the priorities for the committees for the following year. At the meeting, various State partners and agencies come and tell the Council what their accomplishments were and what their priorities are for the coming year. The committees also present their accomplishments and their priorities and then the Council votes on those priorities. At the meeting they also conducted site visits and elected officers. Donna Swihart will be the chair

and Eric Gebhart will be the vice chair beginning July 1.

The priorities they advocated for to the Council are as follows:

1. Advocate for forgiveness of student loans to support staff recruitment and retention.
2. Advocate for changes to allow ILP to bill private insurance for all ILP services.
3. Advocate for changes to allow ILP to bill Medicaid for all ILP services.
4. Implement a preschool survey and assist the Department of Education in creating a preschool listserv.
5. Assist the Department of Education in organizing an early childhood summit.

Face-to-Face Meeting

Teresa Holt stated that last year they did a three-day face-to-face meeting with rural outreach to smaller communities. Teresa asked for suggestions besides the places that have recently been visited which include Juneau, either Bethel or Barrow, Fairbanks, Galena, Ft. Yukon, Nenana, and Delta Junction. Amy Simpson suggested Kodiak, but also noted that they should see if there are any communities that are doing things that relate to their priorities that they might want to check out. Other suggestions were Mat-Su, Sitka, Dillingham, Kotzebue, Talkeetna, and Glennallen. Teresa will check with Tina Brandon and see where the best place would be to try to put up 20 people.

Teresa Holt will send everyone an e-mail to see which dates in August or September work best for everyone.

Nominations and Election of Chair

Debbie Kitelinger and Meghan Johnson have expressed an interest in being the chair. Teresa Holt explained the duties of the chair. The group

decided to vote by secret ballot by sending their vote to Teresa Holt. Meghan Johnson and Debbie Kitelinger then gave brief speeches to the committee on their qualifications for being chair.

Teresa asked that the committee members please vote by Friday at 5:00.

Report from OCS/ILP

Linda Borghols stated that she doesn't have much more to report on than what she reported at the Council meeting. They are awaiting the Governor's budget and then they'll be really busy once it comes out.

Report from AILPA

Amy Simpson stated that AILPA met last week and they were working on thank-you letters to the legislators and they will be distributed to all the ILP programs so they can write to their legislators and thank them for supporting ILP.

Amy Simpson stated that she was elected the chair of AILPA and so AILPA wrote a letter of thanks to the Governor for her support of ILPs.

Report from DEED

There was no representative from DEED available to provide a report for the meeting.

Other Information for the Good of the Order

Sheila Sellers mentioned that she knows of a parent who has expressed interest in becoming a member of the EIC. Teresa Holt has tried to call and e-mail her but she hasn't heard back.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EIC will be on June 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.